

GUEST COLUMN

For the Thursday, June 2, 2016 Edition

From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo

Infrastructure Improvements: Elm Street Bridge Reopens

On Tuesday, May 31st we were proud to re-open a brand new bridge on Elm Street in the Booker T. Washington community. I want to commend our Engineering department, Womack & Sons (contractors) and Dumas Engineering (design work) for their outstanding efforts. This announcement is important because Elm Street is a vital corridor for thousands of residential and business motorists each week. The Elm Street Bridge is located between Lincoln Elementary School and business such as Gardner-Denver Thomas, Chase, Brookshire's and the Monroe Regional Airport.

The former bridge had been in place for decades and became unfit for public use. Thanks to funding made available by you, the public, through our citizen approved 1-cent capital infrastructure tax; the City of Monroe had funds available to completely rebuild the Elm Street Bridge. The \$1.26 million dollar bridge project is now officially open. It's one of four brand new bridges we have slated to build around Monroe over the next several months. That is in addition to about nine smaller bridge rehabilitation projects we are doing across the city. You can rest assured that your tax dollars are going to good work and count is as a "sign of progress" when you see the big red, white and blue project signs near these projects.

By working together, we are truly making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!